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Wednesday, October 25, 2017 www.metro.us | t: MetroP

WENTZ'S WORLD

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How to choose the right charter school. 16

The best scary podcasts to binge to this Halloween. 24-25

ERASING HATE

A Philly Jewish cemetery is moving forward after repairing dozens of damaged headstones. 4

MAYOR KENNEY LEAVES A STONE ON A REPAIRED HEADSTONE

JORDAN CASSAWAY

WELCOME TO METRO PHILLY

SAM NEWHOUSE, REPORTER

Hello, Philly. If you have not been enjoying the unpredictable weather, get ready for temps to stick in the 60s through the weekend. On Tuesday morning, as rain poured on the city, Mayor Jim Kenney visited the Jewish cemetery where dozens of headstones were toppled in an attack that struck the community to its core. Now all of those headstones have been repaired, thanks to volunteers. Read more inside and at **MetroPhilly.us.**

REFUGEES FACE MORE BARRIERS UNDER PLAN

1 The Trump administration will temporarily delay the processing of most refugees from 11 countries deemed to be high-risk while resuming refugee admissions for other countries, government officials said. According to a memo seen by Reuters, sent by the Trump administration to Congress on Tuesday ahead of the government announcement on new refugee vetting measures, the administration also will place on hold a program that allows for family reunification for some refugees resettled in the United States. The resettling of so-called following-to-join refugees will resume, according to the memo, once screening "enhancements have been implemented." The changes come at the close of a 120-day ban on most refugees that was ordered by President Donald Trump to allow a review of vetting processes.

NEW WAVE OF CYBER ATTACKS HITS RUSSIA

2 Cyberattacks using malware called "BadRabbit" hit Russia and other nations on Tuesday, affecting Russian Interfax news agency and causing flight delays at Ukraine's Odessa airport. While no major outages were reported, the U.S. government issued a warning on the attack, which followed campaigns in May and June that used similar malware and resulted in what some economists estimated are billions of dollars in losses. The attacks are disturbing because attackers quickly infected critical infrastructure, including transportation operators, indicating it was a "well-coordinated" campaign, said Robert Lipovsky, a researcher with cyber firm ESET. More than half the victims were in Russia, followed by Ukraine, Bulgaria, Turkey and Japan, according to ESET.

5 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW

Sen. Jeff Flake (R-AZ) speaks to reporters on Capitol Hill after announcing he will not seek re-election.

GETTY IMAGES

GOP SENATORS FIERCELY REBUKE TRUMP

3 Two Republican senators fiercely attacked President Donald Trump on Tuesday, accusing their fellow Republican of debasing U.S. politics and the country's standing abroad in extraordinary public criticisms of a sitting president. The onslaught from Jeff Flake and Bob Corker marked a sharp increase in tensions in what has been a fraught relationship between the president and congressional Republicans as Trump tries to enact his policy agenda. In a dramatic speech on the Senate floor, Flake repeatedly targeted Trump's style of governing, saying American politics had become "inured" to "reckless, outrageous and undignified" behavior from the White House. "The instinct to scapegoat and belittle threatens to turn us into a fearful, backward-looking people," said Flake, who announced he would not run for re-election next year. "I will not be complicit or silent," Flake said. By announcing he will be leaving when his term ends in early 2019, Flake has effectively freed himself up to speak his mind, without having one eye on voter reactions. Sen. Bob Corker, who has also said previously he is not running for re-election, earlier called Trump a liar who has damaged the country's standing, eviscerating the president with comments that stirred deepening divisions among Republicans. "The president has great difficulty with the truth on many issues," Corker told CNN.

TWITTER TO LABEL ELECTION ADS

4 Twitter Inc. said on Tuesday it would add labels to election-related advertisements and say who is behind each of them, after a threat of regulation from the United States over the lack of disclosure for political spending on social media. Twitter said in a blog post the company would launch a website so that people could see the identities of the buyers, targeting demographics and total ad spend by election advertisers, as well as information about all ads currently running on Twitter, election-related or otherwise. Silicon Valley social media firms and the political ads that run on their websites have generally been free of the disclaimers and other regulatory demands that U.S. authorities impose on television, radio and satellite services.

AMAZON RIVALS TURN TO LEGAL FINE PRINT

5 Whole Foods met a foe this summer during talks to lease retail space in a San Francisco mall: the Target next door. As City Center mall's largest tenant, Target had a say over changes to the property. According to people familiar with the lease discussions, Target balked at sharing the mall with Whole Foods because it feared competition from the chain's new owner, Amazon. Early attempts to persuade Target failed, and Whole Foods may now have to concede certain Amazon initiatives — such as lockers where customers can pick up goods ordered online — if it wants the location, the people said. Reuters examined real estate agreements with 20 retail landlords, lawyers and brokers show that the strings attached to operating in malls present an emerging and little-scrutinized challenge to Amazon's quest to reshape Whole Foods.

MetroWeen's Trumpkin contest

Send us photos of your carved "Trumpkin" pumpkin for a chance to win a $100 Amazon gift card. The winning Trumpkin will be featured in our special "MetroWeen" Halloween edition on Oct. 26, and on our social media accounts. Email pictures to **Morgan@metro.us.**

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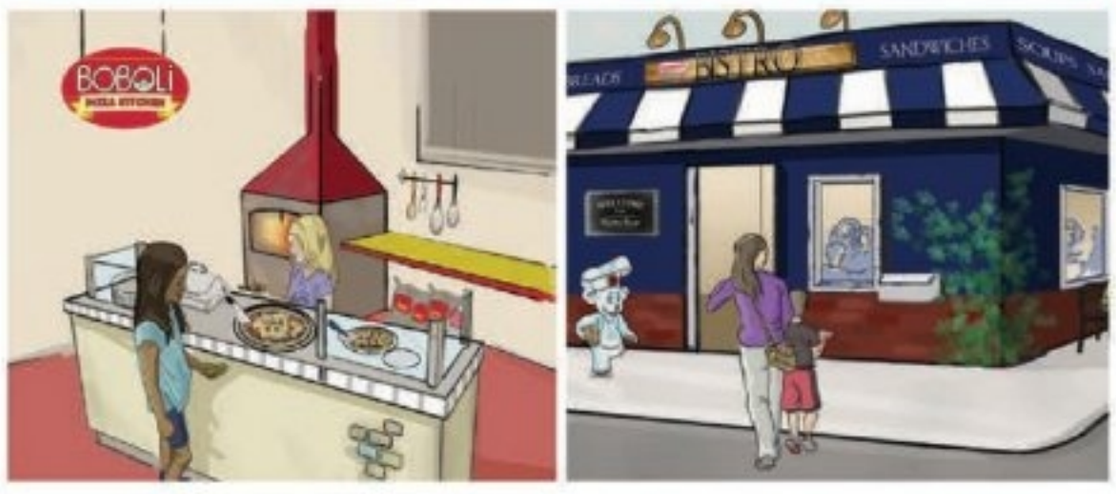

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Daniel Tiger's Neighborhood: A Grr-ific Exhibit was created by Children's Museum of Pittsburgh in partnership with The Fred Rogers Company. DANIEL TIGER'S NEIGHBORHOOD © 2017 The Fred Rogers Company. All rights reserved.

Philadelphia Jewish cemetery unveils newly repaired headstones

Volunteers are credited with helping completely restore the Jewish Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Wissinoming.

SAM NEWHOUSE
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Under gray, rainy skies on Tuesday morning, the Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Wissinoming erected a challenge against the forces that attacked it 10 months ago, unveiling fully repaired headstones, the product of months of volunteer labor.

Mayor Jim Kenney described himself as "a little *verklempt*" (Yiddish word for choked up with emotion) as he toured the newly repaired cemetery on Tuesday morning, where he had previously been in attendance to survey the damage after the cemetery was attacked in February.

The suspected hate crime left dozens of headstones toppled at the traditional burial ground. But volunteers with the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia undertook the repair of all the headstones.

"The support from Mayor Kenney and the entire Philadelphia community following the vandalism was truly amazing," said federation President Naomi Adler, in a statement. "Every family deserves to know that their loved ones' final resting place is not subject to vandalism and anti-Semitism."

Dozens of headstones were toppled in the attack that some identified as part of a wave of hate crimes following the inauguration of President Donald Trump.

The vandalism occurred sometime between Feb. 16 and 21, and was first reported on Feb. 26, according to the Jewish Federation.

"An investigation determined that the intruders entered the site through a hole in a chain link fence located on the northeast side of the property, forging an intentional path of destruction leading towards Frankford Ave. on the northwest side," the federation said.

The vandalism was followed by a rally of more than 5,000 against hate on March 2 at Independence Mall, and donations rolled in from some 3,000 people who raised $288,000 to help put the cemetery back together.

The project was a massive undertaking, said Jewish Federation officials. Some headstones could be repaired in an hour, but others, ranging from 1,000 to 4,500 pounds in weight, had to be lifted completely out of the ground for proper repairs to be made so they could be reinstalled.

While Trump's inauguration was blamed for a wave of hate crime incidents, many were later to be revealed as hoaxes or accidents.

The suspect arrested for tagging "Trump rules black b—" on cars in South Philly the night of the election was African-American. Another incident of toppled headstones at a Jewish cemetery in Brooklyn was found to be have been caused by the wind. And a wave of bomb threats against Jewish community centers countrywide were allegedly perpetrated by a former left-leaning journalist trying to frame his ex-girlfriend with the hate crimes, and by a Jewish teenager.

But many other cases remain unsolved, like the swastikas and Nazi slogans painted on South Broad Street after Trump's election.

"I am so thankful for the Jewish Federation and Naomi Adler for their leadership in repairing these headstones," Kenney said. "We must continue to respond to hate with love and speak out against injustice."

Mayor Jim Kenny and Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia President Naomi Adler tour Mt. Carmel Cemetery, where defaced headstones have been repaired. JORDAN CASSAWAY

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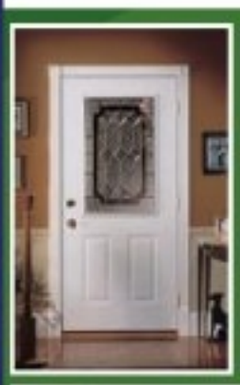

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Former Philly DA Seth Williams sent to prison for five years for corruption

Former Philadelphia District Attorney R. Seth Williams was sentenced on Tuesday to five years in federal prison for taking bribes and committing fraud to maintain a lifestyle prosecutors said he could not afford.

Williams, 50, the first African-American elected as district attorney in Pennsylvania, had gone on trial before Judge Paul Diamond in June but entered a guilty plea to one count of bribery and resigned before the trial concluded in U.S. District Court in Philadelphia.

"Mr. Williams, you sold yourself to the parasites you surrounded yourself with," Diamond said at the sentencing, WHYY Radio reported on Twitter. "You harmed all of the citizens of this city."

Williams, in a letter read in court by his attorney, Thomas Burke, said he made "mistakes" and acknowledged the hurt he caused his family and the black community, WHYY tweeted.

Seth Williams has been sentenced to five years in prison. CHARLES MOSTOLLER

Between July 2010 and May 2015, prosecutors said, Williams accepted trips to the Dominican Republic for himself and his girlfriend, as well as money and luxury personal items, from Philadelphia-area businessman Mohammad Ali.

In return, prosecutors said, Williams took steps including "contacting a Philadelphia police official in order to pressure and advise the official to assist Ali with security screenings at the airport."

Ali pleaded guilty in May to bribery and tax evasion.

In an Oct. 16 sentencing memorandum, prosecutors said that Williams, despite gross annual income topping $200,000, "chose a lifestyle he could not afford." He faced significant expenses for two mortgages on an expensive home, private-school tuition for his daughters, and alimony to an ex-wife.

"There are legal ways to deal with such circumstances," prosecutors wrote. "Williams consistently chose the unlawful route, taking whatever opportunity came his way to take more money and other valuable items, both by selling his office and committing fraud."

Williams was disbarred by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on Oct. 19.

REUTERS

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NORTHEAST CORRIDOR IN DIRE NEED OF CONNECTIVITY

Analysis

CLAIRE MARRAZZO GREENWOOD
cgreenwood@chamberphl.com

The Chamber of Commerce is working to improve the Northeast Corridor. GETTY IMAGES

About five years ago, entrepreneur Elon Musk unveiled a novel project idea: a high-speed rail that would get passengers from Los Angeles to San Francisco in less than thirty minutes. In late July of this year, Musk tweeted that he had gotten "verbal approval" for the same project, known as the Hyperloop, to take shape on the East Coast, with a total transportation time of 29 minutes from Washington, D.C., to New York City, with stops in Baltimore and Philadelphia.

For us, sustained infrastructure failures across the Northeast Corridor (NEC) are some of the most frustrating. The NEC supports 40,000 intercity and 780,000 commuter trips a day. Its bridges and tunnels are critical for both freight and passenger rail. To grasp how powerful this geographic market is, the loss of the NEC for a single day costs the country $100 million in congestion, productivity losses and other transportation impacts.

In response, the Chamber of Commerce for Greater Philadelphia's CEO Council for Growth (CEO Council) helped launch the Coalition for the Northeast Corridor (CNEC), a group that represents business stakeholders whose employees and customers rely on the corridor to conduct commerce, create jobs, and drive the U.S. economy forward.

The CNEC's main goal for the next 12 months is to raise awareness about the importance of infrastructure investment within the administration, Congress, and media. Under the Coalition's banner, business and community leaders will increase public awareness and encourage Congress to appropriate the necessary funding for the NEC.

To get involved, email Claire Marrazzo Greenwood at cgreenwood@chamberphl.com.

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White nationalists more dangerous than ISIS: US troops

And a majority of military officers have an unfavorable view of the president.

MICHAEL MARTIN
@MetroPhilly
letters@metro.us

A survey indicates that a majority of U.S. troops say that white nationalists, like those seen in Charlottesville, Virginia, are a bigger threat to the country than ISIS. GETTY IMAGES

White nationalists pose a greater threat to national security than Islamic terrorists, U.S. troops say.

In a Military Times survey of 1,131 active-duty soldiers after the white-supremacist march in Charlottesville, Virginia, 30 percent ranked white nationalists as a more significant danger to U.S. security than the conflicts in Syria and Iraq. Those ranked second and third with 27 percent and 17 percent, respectively.

Also in the poll: 42 percent of nonwhite servicemembers said they had witnessed white nationalists in American military. Only 19 percent of white servicemembers said the same. Respondents were 76 percent white, 8 percent Hispanic, 9 percent African-American, 2 percent Asian and 5 percent of other ethnicities.

The same poll found that a majority of military officers oppose Trump: 53 percent said they had an unfavorable view of him.

One Navy lieutenant told Military Times that Trump's actions in office were distracting. The Trump White House "seems extremely reactionary, verging on whimsical, when it comes to matters of international politics."

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Fewer than a third of Americans back Trump tax plan: New poll

Majority of Republicans surveyed said cutting deficit more important than breaks for wealthy, corporations.

Fewer than a third of Americans support Donald Trump's tax-cut plan, according to a Reuters/Ipsos poll released on Tuesday, as the president went to Capitol Hill looking for Republican backing for his proposal to slash tax rates for individuals and companies.

As the 2018 midterm congressional election campaigns grow nearer, the poll found that more than two-thirds of registered voters said reducing the federal budget deficit is more important than cutting taxes for the wealthy or for corporations.

Trump's plan would balloon the deficit and add to the $20 trillion national debt, according to critics and independent analysts, but Republicans say the tax cuts proposed in the plan would be offset by economic growth that would generate new tax revenue.

Among Republicans surveyed, 63 percent said deficit reduction should take priority over tax cuts for corporations, while 75 percent said deficit reduction should take priority over tax cuts for the wealthy.

Democrats oppose Trump's plan, unveiled on Sept. 27, and say it is unfair to the poor and the working class.

The plan is still only a nine-page "framework." It was drafted in secret by Trump administration and congressional leaders. Formal legislation is in development.

Congressional leaders and Trump are trying to lock in support for the plan from rank-and-file Republicans, who were uninvolved in the framework drafting process.

Trump, who has yet to score a major legislative win since taking office in January, wants his plan to become law before year's end, a time frame that some policy analysts doubt is realistic.

More than half of adults surveyed in the poll agreed that "cutting taxes for the poor is more important than reducing the federal deficit," with 68 percent of Democrats and 47 percent of Republicans in accord with that statement, the poll showed.

The Oct. 20-23 poll found that only 15 percent of registered voters said Republicans in Congress should prioritize tax reform over other issues. About a quarter of those polled, including 23 percent of Democrats and 30 percent of Republicans, agreed that Congress should continue working on a healthcare bill.

Of those adults who said they had heard of the "tax reform plan recently proposed by congressional Republicans," just 28 percent said they support it, while 41 percent said they oppose it and another 31 percent said they do not know.

The poll found opinions on Trump's plan were sharply divided along party lines, with 56 percent of Republicans and just 9 percent of Democrats supporting it.

Of those who had heard of the plan, 14 percent said it would cut their taxes, while 30 percent said it would increase their taxes. Another 35 percent said their taxes would not change and 20 percent said they did not know how it would impact them.

The Reuters/Ipsos poll was conducted online in English in all 50 states. It gathered responses from 1,862 people, including 1,079 people who said they were aware of the Republican tax plan. It has a credibility interval, a measure of accuracy, of 3 percentage points.

REUTERS

Capitol Hill on Tuesday saw a major push from the president to drum up support for his tax-reform proposal. GETTY IMAGES

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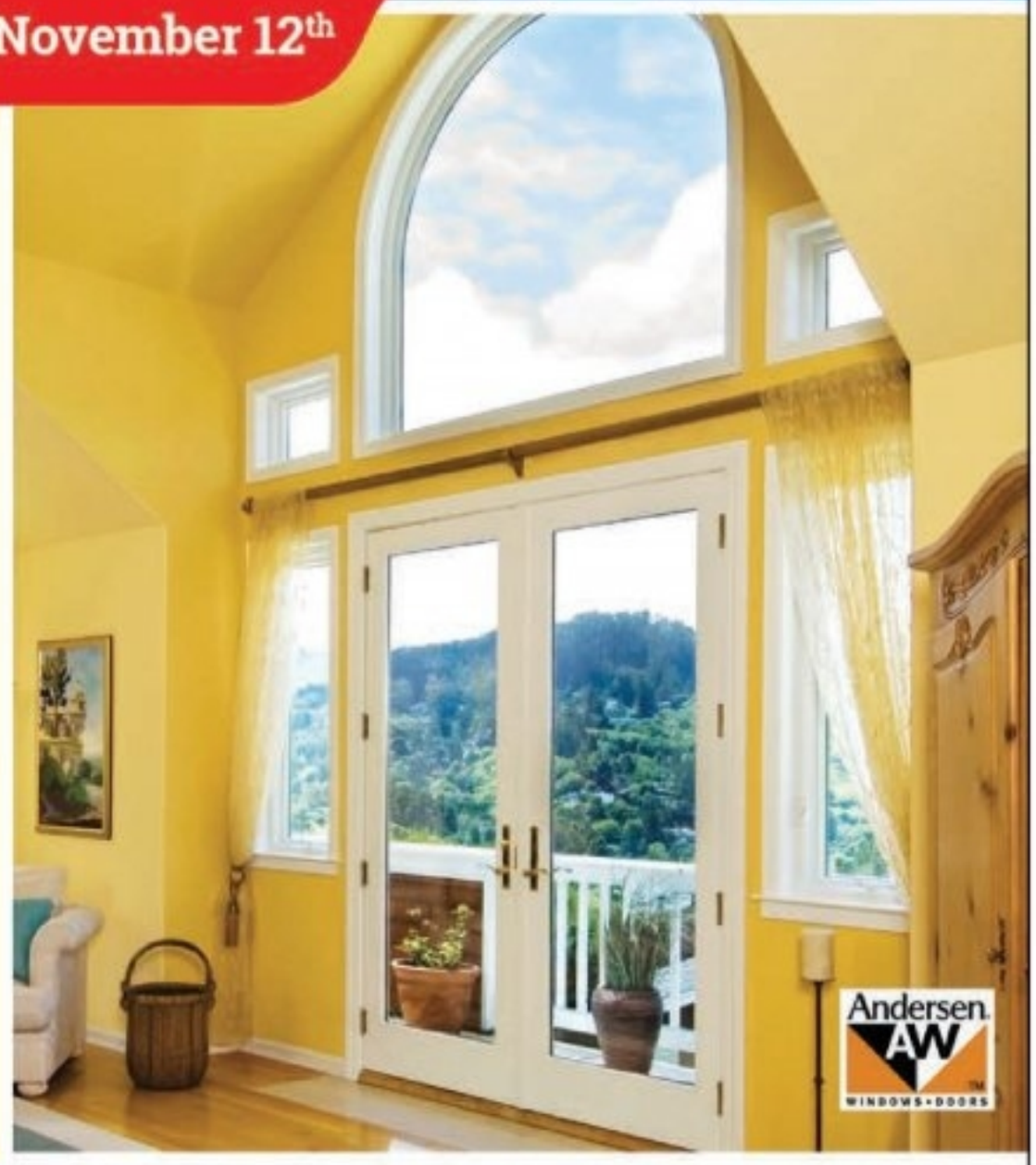

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Move over, cupping: This massage technique has gone viral, and it's controversial

It might look painful, but fans of gua sha say it works wonders to work out strained muscles. FACEBOOK / HITESH PATEL

Michael Phelps started a trend when he showed off a back full of circular bruises during the 2016 Summer Olympics, a result of the massage technique known as cupping. The welts looked painful, but they're nothing compared to another massage technique that's gaining popularity on social media: gua sha.

"To reset your muscles, we need to gua sha all the scar tissue and then pin and stretch your muscles and then re-align your spine so when you do your yoga exercises it has a greater effect," Hitesh Patel, a certified massage therapist based in Leicester, U.K., wrote in a Facebook post that featured a client with over a dozen red lines streaking across her back. The client sought out the treatment to alleviate the aches and pains she developed after spending hours on her feet as a hairdresser.

Gua sha might be trending thanks to Patel's post with almost 25,000 shares, but it's actually an ancient Chinese technique that's passed down from generation to generation. It's been described as similar to cupping, "but way more intense" and involves scraping the skin with various blunt-edged tools.

A small study of people with neck pain found that those treated with gua sha reported less pain after treatment than the placebo group.

But not everyone is convinced.

"There's no data that proves it's truly more helpful than simply applying heat or ice or taking medication like ibuprofen," Dr. Robert Glatter, a physician and assistant professor of emergency medicine at Lenox Hill Hospital in New York, told Cosmopolitan. MEAGAN MORRIS

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Cracking the combination on today's education options.
ISTOCK

What, exactly, is the difference between a public, private and charter school?

Take control of your education ... once you know what your choices are.

JOSHUA CROUTHAMEL
@MetroPhilly
features@metro.us

Long gone are the days of one and only option when it was time to hit the books. These days parents have myriad schools to choose from for their children. Which is great! But confusing. So we've broken down the three most mainstream educational outlets for students and given you some background so you can find the right fit for your kids.

Take notes — there's sure to be a test on this later.

Public Schools

The most traditional environment for education is at a public school. They educate the majority of American students, though that number has shifted in favor of other options in recent years with the advent of other choices. Public schools are generally neighborhood-based, but in the Philadelphia area, many students can apply for an exception. Should a student not get a desk at their preferred public school, they'll be guaranteed a spot at their local or feeder school. Public schools are funded by the government, but not all are created equal. The quality of your local public school is likely determined by your neighborhood (if you pay a high property tax, your school will have a leg up on others). So it's a good idea to do your research and ensure your public school (or any of these education options, for that matter) makes the grade.

PROS

Offer no cost, local and hopefully balanced education across subjects deemed important by the Board of Education.

CONS

Quality varies widely.

COST

Free

Private schools

The second most popular outlet for education has historically been the private school. Private schools are largely religious (roughly 75%), and though your child will be subject to religious teachings you don't necessarily have to belong to the school's faith. Private schools rely on tuitions and grants in order to keep the lights on, so will be your costliest option. They may not offer the full range of activities available at a public school (think sports teams, arts groups and the like), but what they do offer will likely be well-funded. And private schools in the Philadelphia area tend to have the best student-to-teacher ratio (10:1, on average).

PROS

Individualized focus, reinforce family faith in most cases, as parents foot the bill they have more say than on your typical PTA.

CONS

Some students thrive in a bigger pond where there is more diversity, in both thought and clientele.

COST

Varies widely, but $15,000 to $30,000 seems the standard in the Philadelphia area.

Charter Schools

It may come as a surprise to some that charter schools are actually an offshoot of the public education system. That means they receive local, state and federal money, but are also allowed to accept private funding on top of tax dollars. They've been around since the 1990s, but a recent boom has brought them a lot of attention in recent years. Currently, there are 84 brick-and-mortar charter schools in Philadelphia that serve roughly 70,000 students, as well as another 84 Philadelphia-based online charter schools. Charter schools tend to be founded with particular missions; for example, if it's important for you to have your child leave school bilingual, or if your child has special needs, or shows an aptitude for engineering, or if you're a low-income family and could use a focused institution to fast track your child to a college on scholarships, a charter may be just the place for you.

PROS

Address particular needs, affordable personalization.

CONS

You'll need to do your homework to find out each individual charter's history and success rates.

COST

Free

Though parents may find it more challenging to make the right choice when it comes to their family's education due to all of the options available these days, a bit of research will reveal the right option. And though it may not be the school you attended that's just down the block it could benefit your child and their future when you discover perfect fit.

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Make sure you choose the right charter for your child. ISTOCK

How to choose the right charter school

And — no rush — but application deadlines are on the horizon!

PAT KING
@MetroPhilly
patrick.king@metro.us

Having the ability to send your child to a charter school provides parents with more free options that may suit them better than a traditional public school. But with so many to choose from in the Philadelphia area, how are you to know which one's the right fit? Generally speaking, each charter school is created to focus on a specific area, so selecting the one that best aligns with your child's interests and needs is incredibly important.

For instance, the Freire Charter school, blocks away from City Hall, has a mission statement of providing a "college-preparatory learning experience with a focus on individual freedom, critical thinking and problem-solving in an environment that emphasizes the values of community, teamwork, and nonviolence." On the other hand, The Pennsylvania Cyber Charter School (PACyber), located in Midland County, offers a curriculum that aims to inspire students through technology. Both schools offer programs designed to prepare your children for the future but are geared toward different learning styles.

So before filling out your application to a certain charter school, make sure you do your research to see which school is right for your child. Contact the charter you're interested in to see if you can take a tour, and bring your kid along (their opinion counts, too!). If you can't find time in your schedule to make a tour, many schools hold open houses and Q&As for prospective students and their families. While there you'll have the added benefit of being able to engage with a tight community of interested parents (and compare notes). Freire Charter, for example, will be holding an open house on Thursday, Nov. 9, from 5:30 to 7 p.m.

Other schools, like PACyber and others, focused on tech-first, make it easy with free online information sessions that are designed by the same means as their lesson plans. Tour from home!

If you're thinking about having your child join a certain charter school but need a little more convincing, a great way to find out if a school is right for your child is to schedule a student shadow day. This allows your child to pair up with a student to see what a whole day of classes at the charter is like. Who knows — maybe your kid's tour guide will become a future friend should you enroll.

Start your research now, as fall is open-house season for 2018.

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Grades 7-12
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Grades 7-8
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Philadelphia, PA 19140

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Shoemaker Campus
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This "start-up school" is partnering with charters all over the country to change how our children learn.

PAT KING
@MetroPhilly
patrick.king@metro.us

You've been there before. Your head down on your desk, daydreaming while a teacher delivers some "required" lesson you couldn't care less about. And this type of standardized boredom is neither the fault of the student or the instructor — at most schools, lesson plans are set in stone for each grade level, and there's no room for personalization.

Enter the latest "disrupter" — the AltSchool is trying to revolutionize the rote knowledge approach to education. This startup school has set up small "lab schools" in both New York and California with a mission to create personalized curriculums for each of their students to help ignite their curiosity for learning, and they're looking for outlets in Philadelphia.

AltSchool has taken a new approach by pairing teachers and administration with engineers to create a curriculum that gives students incentives for excelling in different subjects. Students can take a subject as far as they can go until they find where they start to have difficulty. The engineers take this data and upload it into a system that can keep teachers and parents aware of what areas the students need help with. It's almost like students are promoted into new grade levels rather than simply meeting the requirements of a stock standard bubble sheet. This new approach led to a large group of investors, most notably Mark Zuckerberg, to donate over $170M to help open more AltSchool locations across the country.

This accelerated approach to teaching will help nurture students who may feel held back by the restrictions of rigid, grade-specific lesson plans. Julia Egan, an Internal Operations Specialist for the school, has a perfect analogy for what they're trying to accomplish. "Traditional schooling is like getting on a train," says Egan. "You don't have a say in where you're going. You can move around within the train, but it's pretty confined. We want to shift to a 'driving a car' model where each child still has to follow the rules of the road … but they have a different sense of control over what they are learning."

Children studying at the newly opened AltSchool in Union Square. ALL PHOTOS ALTSCHOOL

Alex Ragone, the Head of School at the newly opened location in New York City, believes that encouraging a student's curiosity is a great way of preparing them for life outside of school. "Our goal," he says, "is to help every child know who they are as a person, as a citizen, and grow up in that context."

Walking through the big open plan of the Union Square location, it's hard to think of it as, well, a school at all. Upon entry, there's a large meeting area with a colorful modern take on Greek chorus style bleachers that looks like something straight out of a Wes Anderson movie. The school was designed in partnership with famed NYC Architecture firm A+1 in a way that makes you think of a trendy start-up office rather than a traditional schoolhouse. It's outfitted with high tech features such as tablets embedded outside each classroom for teachers to schedule lessons and a recording booth and editing bay where students experiment with "storytelling through podcasting."

With teachers going along on the journey with their students rather than being the gatekeepers on how quickly they can skip ahead in any given subject, it will cut down on any sort of resentment they may feel towards school. "The example I think of," Ragone asks, "is: how many teachers have impacted your life? Me? I can count them on one hand. If we can increase that to two hands for our students, we'll know we've made an impact."

According to a report from EdSurge, the school has hired five new executives with extensive backgrounds in charter schools to help build partnerships between the AltSchool and charters nationwide. Charter schools are now free to apply for these partnerships to gain access to this new tech-forward approach to education. Watch this space to see if the Philadelphia area starts to look a bit more like Silicon Valley.

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1600 Lombard Street 19146
2018-2019 Student Lottery Information
ICS-Center City Application deadline:
Thursday, March 1, 2018 at 2pm EST
The lottery drawing will take place on
Thursday, March 15, 2018
at 5pm in the school's cafeteria 1600 Lombard Street.
It is open to the public.

www.independencecharter.org

Independence CHARTER SCHOOL WEST

2018-2019 Applications were released on
October 1, 2017 on-line and at the school for Grades K-5
5600 Chester Avenue 19143
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Application deadline:
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The lottery drawing will take place on
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https://icswest.org/

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When should you hand in your

Most charter schools in Philadelphia have their application deadlines set for early next year. ISTOCK

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charter school application?

a traditional education. But if you're sold on opting for a charter, when do you have to apply in order to grab one of the very limited spaces available? But luckily for parents, this selection process is done through open enrollment.

An open-window enrollment means there's no formal admissions for a charter school. Children are accepted to a school on a first-come, first-served basis. According to the 2017-2018 Charter Schools Office guidelines, "Charter schools located within Philadelphia must give students living in Philadelphia first preference.

The law provides protections to ensure that charter enrollment processes are equitable and non-discriminatory. Charter schools must admit students without consideration of the student's intellectual ability, athletic ability, test or placement scores, special education status, or ability to speak English." So if you live in Philly and pay attention to the application deadlines, chances are your kid will get into your preferred charter.

If you apply to your school of choice late, the worst that can happen is that your child will be placed on a waiting list. If this happens, all's not lost. Keep faith and know that it's called a "waiting list" for a reason — the school may not be the right fit for another student and your child could take their spot during the school year.

So when should you be turning in your applications? Each charter school has a specific time line for when applications need to be in for the following school year. But according to the Philadelphia Charter Schools Office, most schools set their deadlines for January, February or March. Simply getting your kids ready for school each day can be a full-time job, but if you want them to attend a charter next year, mark the specific dates on your calendar now so you don't miss out.

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Kid Rock isn't running for Senate

Remember that bleak and brief period of time when Kid Rock seemed to be considering a Senate run? Well, don't give up on America just yet, folks: It was just a ploy to promote his album.

The Trump supporting old man told Howard Stern on Tuesday morning that it was all, in fact, an effort to drum up press for some new music that is not "Bawitdaba."

"F—k no, I'm not running for Senate," he told Stern on his SiriusXM radio show. "Are you kidding me? Who couldn't figure that out? I'm releasing a new album. Are you f—ing s—ing me?" I mean, isn't the real question whether or not Kid Rock was s—ting us?

Anyway, "Sweet Southern Sugar" comes out Nov. 3, if you're interested — and also you're stuck in 1998, a time where Kid Rock didn't have to make fake Senate bids in an attempt to be relevant.

the word

Chris Pratt plays nice

Anna Faris' book, "Unqualified" is hitting the shelves. And it includes a foreword from Chris Pratt — her husband of eight years from whom she recently separated.

"When I was asked to write the foreword for 'Unqualified,' Anna's memoir, I immediately said yes without even thinking about it," he writes. "And boy did a lot happen between then and now. So much. Like … soooo much."

That would be about the separation, eh?

Pratt goes on to compliment Faris, like a good soon-to-be-ex-husband. It's super nice, man. Soooo nice.

Amber Heard has a lover Down Under

I applaud Amber Heard. Here is a woman who is constantly getting it in, boo-wise. It doesn't matter whether or not it's cuffing season — baby is getting cuffed!

At the end of September, Heard was caught on tape sharing some aggressive mouth-to-mouth action with a *mystery man* in Australia. Now, Page Six reports that the dude is "hunky stuntman Mana Hira Davis." OK!

Sources tell the site that the pair — who met on set of "Aquaman" in Australia — are inseparable, which sounds over the top. Apparently, these two have been seeing each other a few months, but have been keeping things "low-key."

Heard, of course, most recently dated Elon Musk, and was once married to the human embodiment of patchouli, Johnny Depp.

Girlfriend moves at the speed of light.

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Meet the brains behind 'Happy Death Day'

Jason Blum — Hollywood producer and game-changer.

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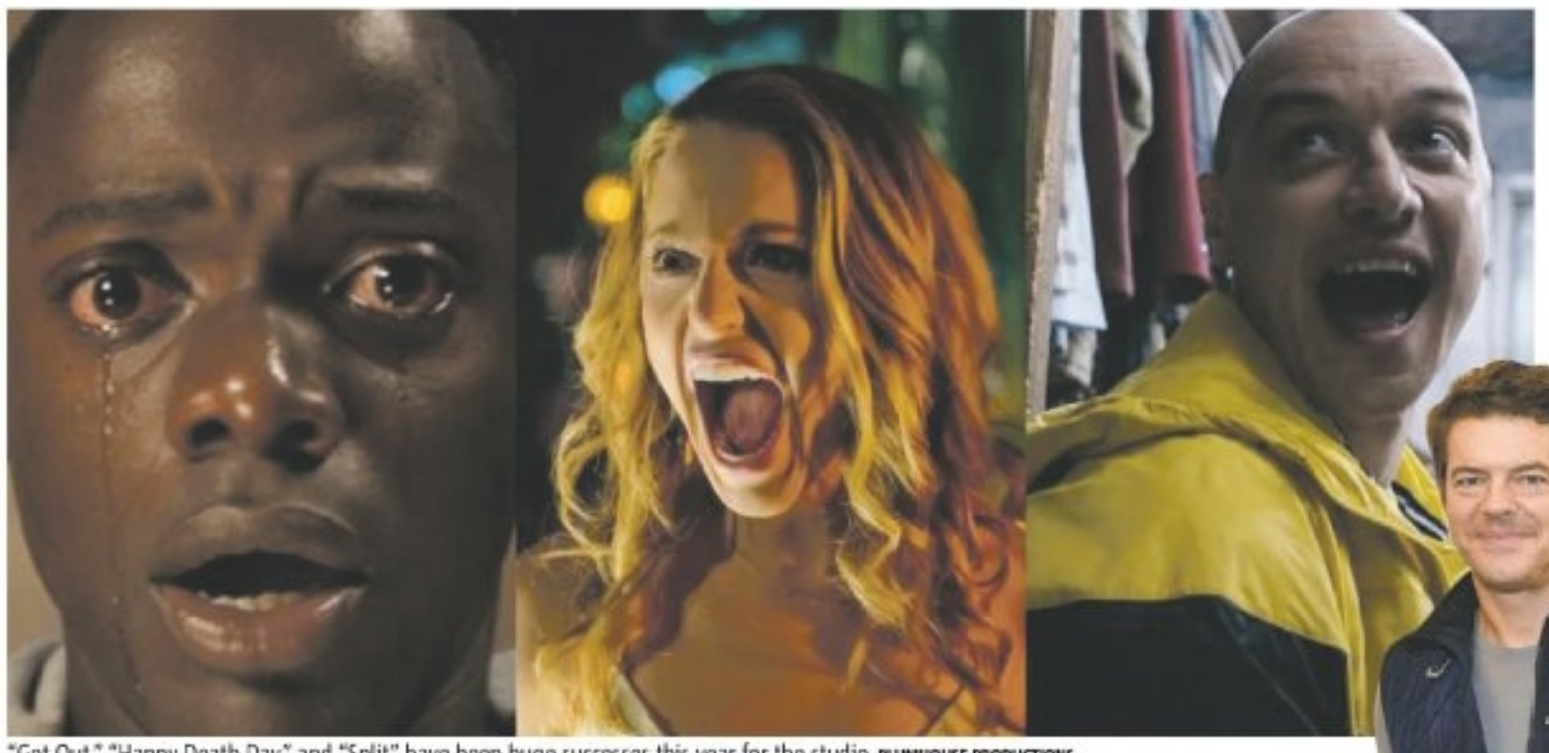

"Get Out," "Happy Death Day" and "Split" have been huge successes this year for the studio. BLUMHOUSE PRODUCTIONS

Over the last decade, Blumhouse Productions has had hit after hit, such as the "Paranormal Activity," "Insidious," "Sinister" and "Purge" franchises, and huge success with "Split" and critically acclaimed "Get Out." We decided it was high time to sit down with the man in charge, Jason Blum, before seeing "Happy Death Day" this Halloween season.

So how did this run of blockbusters come to be?
The film that changed the course of the company the most was definitely the first "Purge." That's when people kind of looked up from their desks and went, "These guys are onto something." We did "Paranormal Activity," "Insidious," we did "Sinister" and then we did the first "Purge," and it was at that point that people realized we were taking a different approach.

What's your approach?
When you empower your filmmakers and give them more creative control than they're used to getting — not around the rest of the world, that is, but in Hollywood — and you give them the final cut, they're more confident. They make bolder choices. They're more likely to solicit my advice, because they know they don't have to take it.

When they do ask for your direction, what do you give them?
We push our filmmakers to take chances. I always ask, "What have you always wanted to do in a movie that you haven't been able to do?" And then I'll say, "Try that." I think if you choose a commercial script, and then let the filmmakers add their voice to it, it often makes for a compelling movie.

What do you use as your own personal gut-check?
I feel like I always have Hitchcock in the back of my brain when I'm reading a script for one of our movies. "What would Hitchcock do today?" I'd go with that. Hitchcock and my dad — he was an art dealer, and there's a lot of similarities between being an art dealer and being a producer. It's about curating and managing artists, collectors and critics. Which is to say, show business.

"Happy Death Day" is out in cinemas now.

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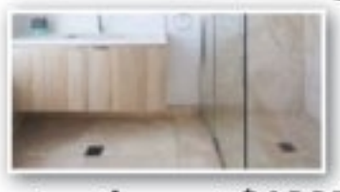

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Keep your spook game strong

The best scary podcasts to binge-listen this Halloween.

HOPE MORAWA
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With Halloween right around the corner, the time is nigh for getting into the ghostly spirit: mind, body and twisted soul! Sometimes it feels like we're already living inside a horror movie, with the Great Trumpkin in office and "30 Rock" leaving Netflix, among other real-life terrors. But thanks to podcasts, we can tune in, tune out and live in denial of our frightening reality for a while — by spooking ourselves even more with stories of true crime, made-up horrors and everything in between.

"My Favorite Murder"

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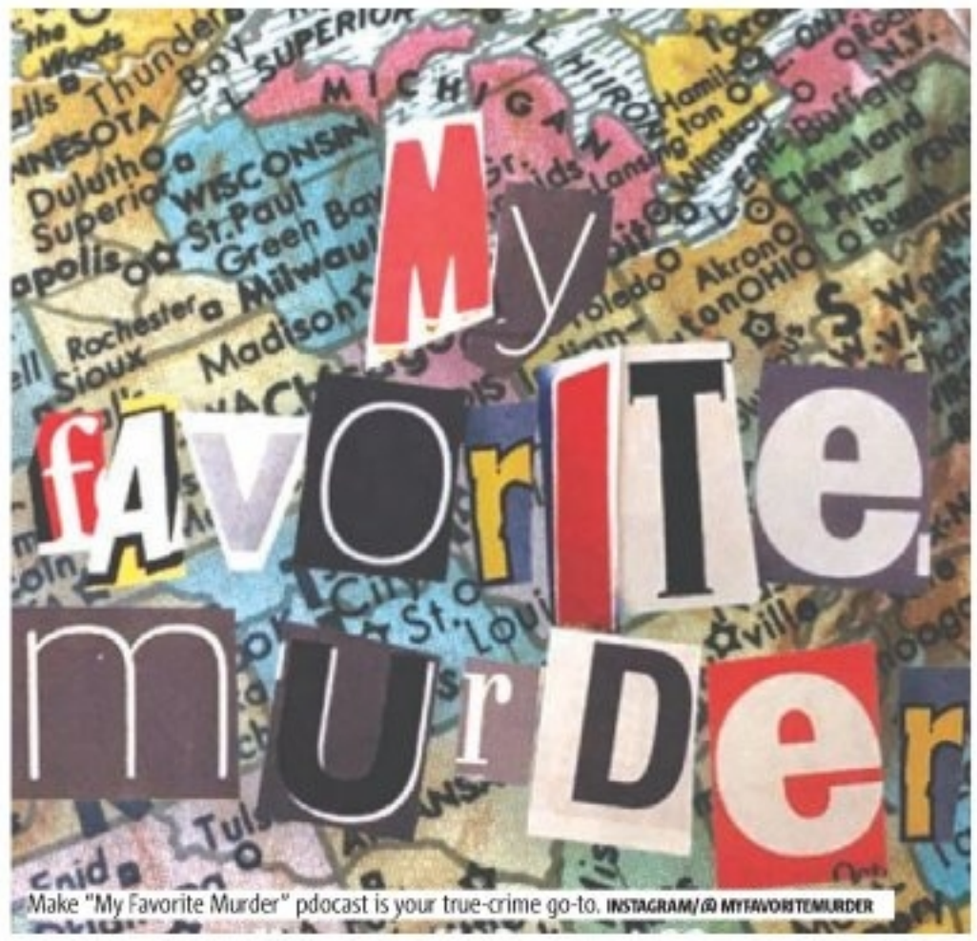
"Lore" podcast explores the origins of your favorite horror legends. INSTAGRAM/@ LOREPODCAST



Make "My Favorite Murder" pdocast is your true-crime go-to. INSTAGRAM/@ MYFAVORITEMURDER

Murder," hosts Georgia Hardstark and Karen Kilgariff exchange their favorite true-crime tales that typically end with, you guessed it, murder. Touching on everything from serial killers to cannibalism to "I Survived" recaps, HardKil captivates listeners with their truthful, unabashed storytelling and honest and relatable reactions ("Oh my God, can you describe my face right now?")
myfavoritemurder.com

"Lore"

Ever wonder where your favorite scary stories got their origin? "Lore" creator Aaron Mahnke has some answers. On the popular podcast, he explores the real-life roots of so many horror legends, from vampires to werewolves, and offers theories behind universal fears, like of the dark or hospitals.
lorepodcast.com

"Limetown"

"What happened to the people of Limetown?" On Feb. 8, 2004, Limetown, a fictional neuroscience research facility in Tennessee, was found abandoned and void of its 300-odd residents after a 911 call was made requesting emergency assistance.

In this seven-part radio drama written and directed by Zack Akers and produced by Skip Bronkie, listeners follow reporter Lia Haddock (played by actress Annie-Sage Whitehurst) as she investigates the mystery. With "Twin Peaks"/Roanoake vibes throughout, this tale unfolds with so many surprises that if it were a book, we wouldn't be able to put it down.
twoupproductions.com/shows/limetown

"Last Podcast on the Left"

If three grown men screaming into a microphone is up your alley, then "Last Podcast on the Left" is definitely for you. Hosts Ben Kissel, Marcus Parks and Henry Zebrowski talk real-life and fictional horror each episode, taking you on a journey of questionable commentary and mostly-inappropriate laughs while visiting the darker side of humanity. Horror films, creepypasta entries, serial killers, cults and beyond, no subject is off-limits for these rowdy dudes.
lastpodcastontheleft.com

"Welcome to Night Vale"

This bimonthly podcast serves up Area 51/"X-Files" vibes with its local news radio show, keeping listeners up to date on all the "Stranger Things" happening in this fictional desert town. Between giant glowing clouds, floating cats and a mysterious musical weather report, you can always expect the unexpected.
welcometonightvale.com

"Stuff You Missed in History Class"

Birthed from the website HowStuffWorks.com in 2008, "Stuff You Missed in History Class" has its own nifty little Halloween category, covering topics like the fact and fiction behind voodoo queen Marie Laveau, the Salem witch trials and the tradition of trick-or-treating.

While it doesn't rate superhigh on the spook scale, this podcast is great if you're trying to get into the Halloween spirit without jumping out of your seat. The episodes are also conveniently short, averaging around 20 minutes an episode, but still jam-packed with interesting information.
missedinhistory.com

"No Sleep"

"For the dark hours when you dare not close your eyes," this podcast is not for the faint of heart. Originally started as the sub-Reddit forum NoSleep in 2010, users would post their original spooky stories to share with others. A year later, a small group of contributors led by now host and producer David Cummings took the top rated posts and recorded them. No Sleep also accepts submissions: Find guidelines at *thenosleeppodcast.com*

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NFL power rankings | by Luke Miller

No. 1

Eagles
6-1 (W vs. WAS)

Chants of MVP followed Carson Wentz out of the stadium following the quarterback's primetime performance that included a career high in rushing yards (64) and setting the Eagles record for touchdown passes through the first seven games (17).

No. 2

Patriots
5-2 (W vs. ATL)

The Pats scored the final 31 points in Super Bowl LI and the first 23 points in the rematch with the Falcons before Julio Jones' late score. In their last three games, New England's defense has yet to allow an opponent to reach 20 points, and the Pats are 3-0 in the process.

No. 3

Steelers
5-2 (W vs. CIN)

While the Martavis Bryant situation is certainly deteriorating off the field, the Steelers are looking fine on it. JuJu Smith-Schuster got the third touchdown of his rookie year and Darrius Heyward-Bey caught his first pass of the season on a 44-yard fake punt.

No. 4

Vikings
5-2 (W vs. BAL)

The Vikings rushing attack hasn't missed Dalvin Cook. Latavius Murray led the charge instead of Jerrick McKinnon, but the two combined for 169 yards against the Ravens. The defense remains as fearsome as ever, sacking Joe Flacco five times and forcing three fumbles.

No. 5

Saints
4-2 (W vs. GB)

The Saints absorbed the best shot of an Aaron Rodgers-less Green Bay team with the help as always of their extremely potent offense. Ted Ginn's 141 receiving yards were his most in a game since 2008. Alvin Kamara and Mark Ingram each topped 100 total yards from scrimmage.

No. 6

Chiefs
5-2 (L vs. OAK)

The 85-yard drive allowed at the end of the game will be remembered more, but the Chiefs had their own 99-yard drive capped by Tyreek Hill's 64-yard touchdown. That final drive nor the night at large was what we've come to expect from the KC defense.

No. 7

Rams
5-2 (W vs. AZ)

The Rams weren't much of a home team in London but they played like it while dominating Arizona and staying in first place in the NFC West. Todd Gurley had his fourth 100-yard rushing game of the Rams' last five games.

No. 8

Bills
4-2 (W vs. TB)

LeSean McCoy got his first two scores of the season where he's again provided the majority of the Bills' offense. It looked like this game might be heading the other direction late before Tre'Davious White forced a fumble.

No. 9

Seahawks
4-2 (W vs. NYG)

Seattle appears to have become a passing team. Russell Wilson tossed three TDs to Paul Richardson, Jimmy Graham, and Doug Baldwin. The injury-ridden run game saw Thomas Rawls and Eddie Lacy have 11 carries for less than 40 yards.

No. 10

Dolphins
4-2 (W vs. NYJ)

The Dolphins have a minus-20 point differential to go with a 4-2 record. They recovered from a 17-0 hole a week ago and a 14-point deficit this week. Unlike a week ago, it was Matt Moore throwing two TDs in a comeback.

Best of the rest

11 — Jaguars (4-3)
12 — Panthers (4-3)
13 — Cowboys (3-3)
14 — Chargers (3-4)
15 — Falcons (3-3)
16 — Packers (4-3)
17 — Lions (3-3)
18 — Texans (3-3)
19 — Washington (3-3)
20 — Broncos (3-3)
21 — Raiders (3-4)
22 — Titans (4-3)
23 — Jets (3-4)
24 — Bears (3-4)
25 — Buccaneers (2-4)

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Carson Wentz had his statement game Monday night. GETTY IMAGES

The rest of the world now knows what we know: There is an amazing quarterback in Philadelphia. Use whatever term you prefer — franchise, elite, MVP, the guy who makes Jon Gruden slobber. Carson Wentz checks every box.

Wentz announced his arrival with authority on "Monday Night Football," just as Randall Cunningham did in 1988. He threw four TDs against Washington, flashed Houdini-esque escapability and turned a nerve-wracking game into a route.

The Eagles are 6-1 for the first time since the 2004 Super Bowl season. Savor that for a moment.

Each successive game validates how blessed Eagles fans are to have Wentz. Let's salute owner Jeff Lurie and GM Howie Roseman, who pushed all in on a small-college QB who'd started just 23 games against spotty competition. Risking everything for Wentz was incredibly gutsy. If he fails, it sets the franchise back five years (See: Cleveland Browns).

But he won't fail.

Monday night began as poorly as it possibly could. The offense drew four flags on the first three plays. Their second series was almost as ugly. Washington opened with an effective blitz, and Wentz was 2-for-7 for 24 yards and an interception.

And then, Wentz and his coaches figured it out. Give Doug Pederson high grades for in-game adjustment, which involved speeding the pace, going no-huddle and letting the second-year QB change things at the line of scrimmage.

From that point, Washington's defense was at sea. The Eagles scored on three straight possessions, and five of six. Wentz completed 15 of his last 18 for 244 yards and four TDs. He also ran for 63 yards on eight scrambles, five of which resulted in first downs.

Three plays make the highlight reel:

— Late in the 2nd quarter, Wentz launched a 64-yard TD bomb to Mack Hollins. Long-ball accuracy on has been the knock on Wentz. But this was a pillow dropped in the rookie receiver's hands. I believe that Wentz-to-Hollins will become a big thing in coming seasons.

— Up 17-10 in the 3rd quarter, Wentz took a snap at the Washington 9 and found himself under siege. Three defenders assaulted him, but Wentz stayed cool. He rose out of the pile and flung one to his third option on the play, rookie Corey Clement, who made an acrobatic catch in the end zone.

Pederson praised it as "one of the best I've seen in a long, long time. Two young guys making that type of a play on this really big stage."

— Finally, there was the 17-yard dash up the gut on 3rd down when everyone but Wentz (and the refs) figured he'd been sacked. We've never listed elusiveness among Wentz's skills, but the kid can juke. That escape sealed the game.

Ultimately, Wentz — like all QBs — will be defined by post-season success. But is there any reason to doubt that the kid has "it" — the skills, smarts and leadership to take this franchise where it hasn't been for more than a half century?

Let's end with this: If every player in the NFL were tossed back into a common draft tomorrow, and league GMs could pick one guy to start their franchise anew, who would they take?

Answer: He wears No. 11 and now plays in Philadelphia.

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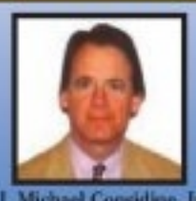
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267-275-1717 | www.dollarsforstrips.com

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We will pay up to $60 per box
We will pick up
— GUARANTEED —
CALL #215.820.4312

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- TABE Testing Administered on site
- Must be able to adhere to our professional dress code policy if accepted to participate, which consists of black dress slacks or skirt, white dress shirt/blouse, black or dark color tie and blazer, black non-slip shoes (uniform starts the day of orientation)
- Must provide OIC with **three written references** at orientation (non-family members)
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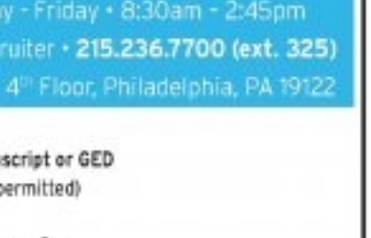

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metro.us/games

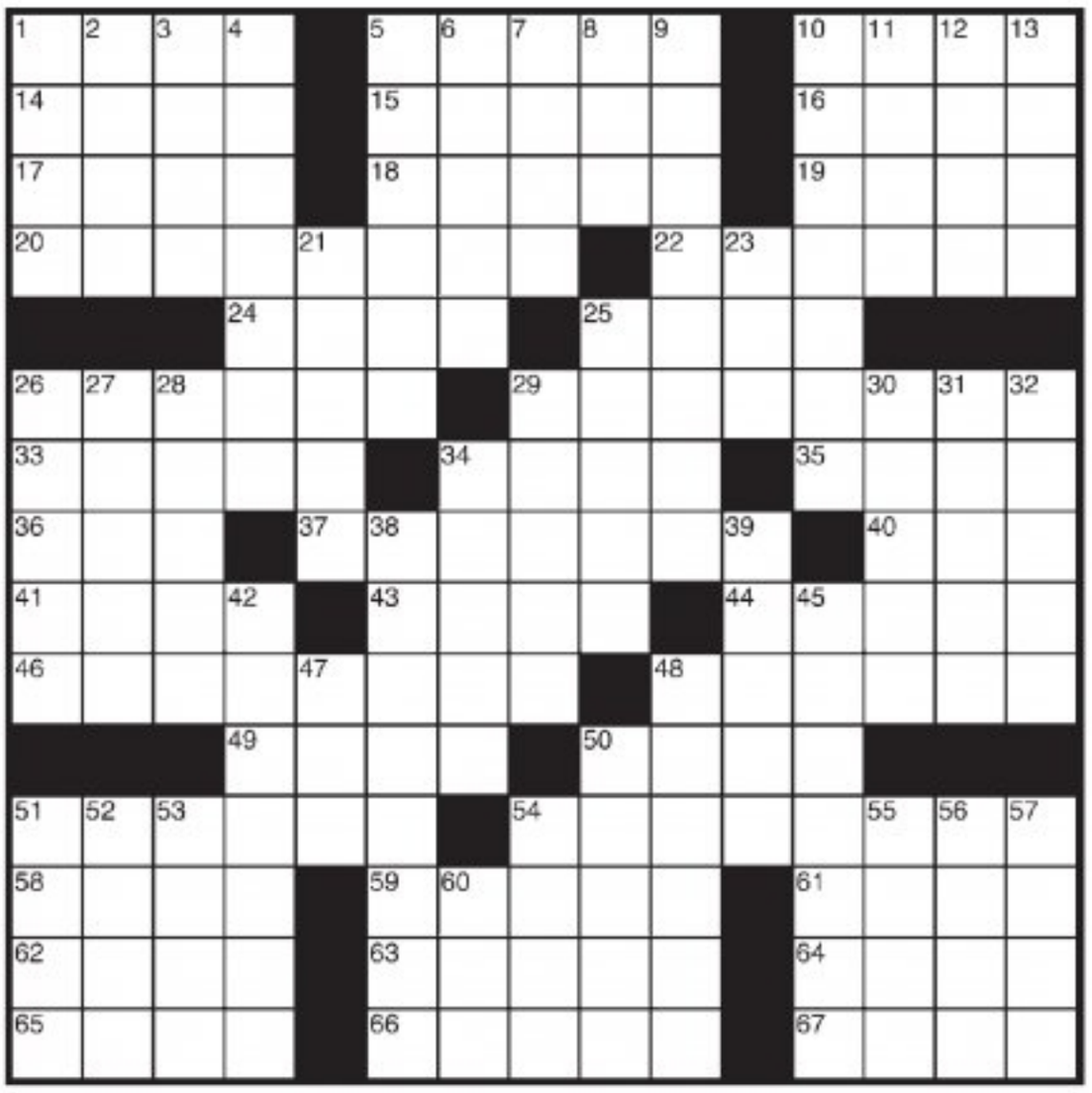
Across

1 Galileo's hometown
5 Welsh dog
10 Relay-race sections
14 Nonstop
15 Circumvent
16 Help go wrong
17 Supermarket amenity
18 Tractor pioneer
19 Spanish title
20 Patellar reflex (2 wds.)
22 Mr. Dangerfield
24 Mongrel
25 Tropical isle
26 Slow movers
29 Able to read and write
33 Hardly wordy
34 Workbench attachment
35 Reduction
36 Codgers' queries
37 Suffuse
40 Sleep briefly
41 Aphrodite's child
43 Some little piggies
44 Game of chance
46 Noon break
48 Day's end
49 Physical damage
50 Whipped up
51 Sprinkled
54 Eager for company
58 Polite cough
59 Papas or Dunne
61 Malevolent
62 Long reed
63 Propane holders
64 Gentle person
65 Pirate captain
66 Leavening agent
67 Tiny parasitic insect

Down

1 Hunt's partner
2 Novelist – Turgenev
3 Dried-up
4 Goddess of the hunt
5 Military students
6 Not secret
7 Smell strongly
8 Dog sound
9 Said again
10 Edinburgh boys
11 Poet's black
12 -- -splicing
13 Command to Rover
21 Minty quaff
23 Not in
25 Southwest scenery
26 Kind of guitar
27 Indira's father
28 Incendiarism
29 Pep up
30 Makes a scene
31 Make happy
32 Railroad terminal
34 Racecar sound
38 Forever
39 Give the slip
42 Plotted
45 By -- (alone)
47 Half a bray
48 Most rational
50 Brothers
51 Quarterback's dread
52 Siamese, now
53 Separate violently
54 Horne of jazz
55 -- Office
56 Play charades
57 Island off Italy
60 Funny Charlotte --

metro.us/crossword



metro.us/sudoku

easy

3					6		4	
5		9	1	8				6
7		1	4			3	9	
					7			
		7		4		5		
			9					
	8	5			4	9		7
4				2	9	8		3
	9		6					4

hard

		3				6		
				9	2	4	8	
9			6					1
		7		2		1	9	
	3		1	7	5		4	
	8	1		6		7		
3					6			2
	1	2	4	5				
		6				5		

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Go with the flow no matter what happens. Reach out with understanding and compassion to find a way to overcome any dilemma that crops up.

Taurus Travel and communication are highlighted. Associating with people from different backgrounds will be eye-opening. Collaboration will help you find solutions.

Gemini Get whatever job is expected of you out of the way. Look for alternative ways to use your skills, qualifications and experience to get ahead.

Cancer If you share your thoughts and emotions, you will resolve issues that have been bothering you. A business trip or conference will lead to a window of opportunity.

Leo Don't raise your temper. Keep your promises, but don't feel you must go above and beyond the call of duty to please others. Take time to relax and pamper yourself.

Virgo Have alternative ideas ready if someone opposes what you want to do. Your strength will come from well-laid plans and the gumption to see matters through.

Libra You'll find it difficult to deal with peers or relatives. Don't get into an emotional dispute. You are best off letting matters settle before you address issues.

Scorpio Clear a space at home or make a move that is conducive to following a lifelong dream. Travel, education and communication will help you reach your goal.

Sagittarius If you want to draw attention to something you believe in, you must take action. If you have an important presentation coming up, make sure it's visually captivating.

Capricorn Get down to business and don't leave anything unfinished. Your precision and attention to detail will be impressive and will help you gain respect and confidence.

Aquarius Get along with others and get things done. Avoid overspending or making unrealistic promises. Live up to your own expectations, not to the expectations of others.

Pisces A schedule that will allow you to explore your options is favored. Change may entice you, but know what you are getting into before you take flight. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

A	G	E	S	■	S	T	R	A	W	■	M	A	T	H
R	A	S	P	■	W	H	I	C	H	■	A	R	E	A
T	U	T	U	■	E	U	B	I	E	■	R	I	N	K
S	L	A	T	H	E	R	■	D	E	G	R	A	D	E
■	■	■	N	A	T	■	■	■	L	I	I	■	■	■
R	E	V	I	S	I	T	■	G	E	N	E	R	A	L
A	M	O	K	■	E	R	R	E	D	■	S	O	F	A
V	I	C	■	■	Y	E	T	■	■	■	B	O	T	■
E	L	A	N	■	A	S	P	I	C	■	P	O	U	T
D	E	L	I	G	H	T	■	T	R	E	S	T	L	E
■	■	■	P	I	E	■	■	■	E	L	Y	■	■	■
S	T	O	P	G	A	P	■	M	A	S	C	A	R	A
A	U	D	I	■	D	O	D	O	S	■	H	I	E	S
A	N	O	N	■	O	L	I	V	E	■	I	D	E	S
B	E	R	G	■	F	E	T	E	D	■	C	E	L	T

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